

## How to do an initial check to see if any portion of your property may be subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

Walk your property and look for wet spots, creeks, rivers, ponds, or other wetland resource areas listed in the *What you need to know about wetlands in Sheffield* brochure; it is listed under a blue button on the website.

### And/or:

Go to: <https://www.axisgis.com/SheffieldMA/>

Hit **I Agree** button

Go to the far left. Select **Search** box and enter parcel number, owner's name, or address. If multiple properties appear, select the wanted property address. Allow time for the property map to load. (Note: some properties are not associated with the property maps in the AXIS system.)

A blue shaded box will appear verifying the parcel number and street address. Hit the **X** to close.

Once the parcel has appeared, go back to the left and HIT **Layers** box.

Select and turn on the **Conservation Commission** layer.

Allow the map to refresh and reload. This may take a minute or so. You may use your mouse or cursor to zoom in or out on the property.

If any of these layers are on for your property in an area where you are planning to do work, specifically any dumping, cutting, filling, removing, dredging, altering, or building/construction, please discuss this with your contractor, landscape architect or wetlands specialist. *Since this is an initial check, you may wish to ask one of them for a more detailed wetland resources map of your property.* You are also encouraged to come to the next Conservation Commission meeting to see if you need a permit to do your planned work.

Check <https://www.sheffieldma.gov/calendar> for the next Conservation Commission meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays in April through October and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of November through March, 7pm, Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. Time is set aside for public inquires. If meeting become virtual again, this will be clearly stated on the meeting agenda.

The Conservation Commission will work with you and/or your representative in following the Wetlands Protection Act. Sometimes this is as simple as installing temporary sediment/erosion controls; sometimes it is more, depending on the project and wetland resources impacted.

Please be aware an unpermitted project in a Wetlands resource area, associated buffer areas, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and/or other protected areas may result in an Enforcement Order from the Commission and required removal and/or remediation work.

A building permit from the Building Commissioner does not mean you have the permission of the Conservation Commission to proceed with your work plan if wetland resources are involved.